



Bridger Bugler

F O R T B R I D G E R S T A T E H I S T O R I C S I T E

Superintendent's Desk



Fort Bridger State
Historic Site
Superintendent
Linley Mayer

Spring is beginning to make an appearance at the fort with the creek melting, Canadian Geese flying overhead, and ground squirrels starting to play. Spring is also ushering in feelings of hope and optimism for the upcoming summer season at the fort.

There is a lot on deck for this summer with some new additions including 20 minute interpretive programs each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 10am, 2:30pm, and 3pm that there is not an event already scheduled. There will also be a military encampment August 5-8 where you will see re-enactors conduct the activities of garrison life throughout the fort. Barring any unforeseen circumstances again this year, the Fort Bridger Annual Mountain Man Rendezvous is scheduled to take place September 3-6, 2021. We are preparing and looking forward to sharing these events and more with you when you visit the fort.

In this edition you will discover evidence that Calamity Jane spent time at Fort Bridger, how a lady should conduct herself when traveling alone in the Victorian Era, and some of the happenings that were taking place in Southwest Wyoming during the Spring of 1868.

Dispatch from the District

As we transition back into our peak season, I know there is a long list of things you all are doing to prepare. You did great work last year in spite of the obvious challenges and I hope this season finds us in a better place. There will still be challenges, however, it is looking like our historic sites will be getting to some semblance of "normal" with school groups, events, etc. Either way, I have nothing but faith in what you all can accomplish and I am looking forward to seeing and participating in all the exciting things you all are planning for the future of the fort. Thank you for all that you do!

Kyle Bernis, Shoshone District Manager

A POINT IN TIME

BY: MARTIN LAMMERS

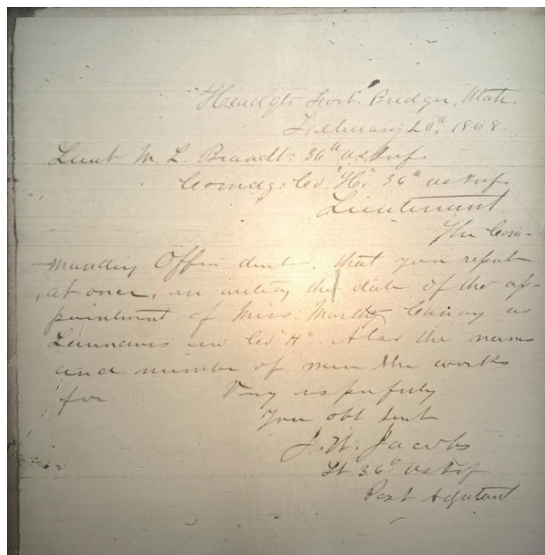
Whatever anyone may or may not like about the military, the fact that throughout its history the U.S. Army wrote and kept extensive and important records of daily activities and occurrences cannot be denied. Such primary records are of immense usefulness to historians in general. Fort Bridger in the nineteenth century was certainly no exception.

The records currently being studied are from the National Archives, copies of which are on microfilm and in the possession of the State of Wyoming and the Fort Bridger State Historic Site.

The Army had returned in 1866, after the Civil War, but by 1868, it was still in the process of constructing, repairing, or altering buildings and the post grounds. The Transcontinental Railroad was fast approaching and the South Pass area gold fields were attracting a large number of miners and the people supporting them. As the largest military garrison in the area at the time it was incumbent on Fort Bridger to serve all 'local' interests, internal and external. An 'Indian Treaty' was in the works, and overall 1868 was a busy year.

The many records from this period range from daily matters of supplies and disbursements, recommendations for courts martial, and administrative matters which included the laundresses.

One interesting set of records begins with a request by Post Commander Colonel Henry A. Morrow for a list of all women employed as laundresses at Fort Bridger. The list was quickly made and submitted to Col. Morrow on January 13, 1868. On February 20th a simple message went out from Colonel Morrow's office to the Commander of Company "H" 36th US Infantry asking for information about a laundress apparently employed since mid-January. Of particular interest is the name of the person being employed.



Headqts Fort Bridger, Utah

February 20, 1868

Lieut M. L. Brandt 36th US Inf.

Comdg Co "H", 36th US Inf

Lieutenant

The Com-

manding Officer directs that you report

, at once, in writing the date of the ap-

pointment of Miss Martha Canary as

Laundress in Co "H". Also the names

and number of men she works

for. Very respectfully

Your obt servt

J. W. Jacobs

Lt 36th US Inf

Post Adjutant

Aunt Agony's Advice

Advice for men and women in the Victorian era (1837-1901) taken from *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette*.

Dear Aunt Agony,

I will be departing to visit my dear sister Beatrice in St. Louis. I will be partaking in this journey unaccompanied. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

I anxiously await your reply.

Ms. Ester

My Dearest Ms. Ester,

I know that a long trip can be taxing upon the soul, but you need not worry, I have some helpful tips for you.

- If you are thrown into the company of a gentleman while upon your trip, you need not necessarily refuse to speak, but you should be guarded in your mannerisms and words.
- When you arrive at your hotel for the night, enter through the ladies entrance. You will then send for the proprietor to present your card. You must convey at that time the length of your intended stay.
- Request with the proprietor that you wish supper and that you will need an escort to conduct you to your seat. A waiter will meet you at the door when you are prepared and ready to attend.
- While on the train, avoid excessive finery or a lavish display of jewelry as this is in bad taste.
- Also, avoid laces or velvets as they naturally accumulate and hold dust.
- Avoid eating at irregular intervals.
- If you have the misfortune of weak eyes avoid reading on the train.
- And last but certainly not least, if you have weak lungs avoid talking.

Follow these simple tips my dear and hopefully your trip will be relaxing and uneventful.

Yours truly,

Aunt Agony

Hill, Thomas E. *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette*. California: Bluewood Books, 1994. 68-69.



EARLY FORT BRIDGER NEWSPAPER

The following is a few articles from the April 1, 1868 *The Sweetwater Mines* newspaper, which was one of the first newspapers printed in the Fort Bridger area.

The Sweetwater Mines

Fort Bridger, U.T.

Wednesday April 1, 1868

Fort Bridger, U.T.

Post Commander--H. A. Morrow, Bvt. Col

Post Surgeon---W. E. Waters Bvt. Major

A. A. QM, A.C.S., and Post Adj--1 tent., J. W. Jaeshe

- As Mr. James McLaughlin, formerly of Montana, was attempting to cross Black's Fork on Sunday last, the ice gave way, precipitating horse and rider into the stream. Mr. McLaughlin was carried by the current, under the ice, but by great good luck reached a small break, or air hole, and popped up through it like a cork. His horse, a very valuable one, was drowned.
- The monthly inspection of the troops at these barracks took yesterday and it seem to us from our standpoint that officers and troops presented an unusually gay and brilliant appearance, and discharged the duties of the occasion with more than ordinary vim. Perhaps it was owing to the weather, for certainly a fairer spring day than yesterday we have seldom seen.
- We received today, too late however, for insertion in this issue, a large batch of advertisements from the wide awake, go-ahead merchants of Cheyenne. Keep your eyes skinned, boys, for the next issue, in order that you may see where and to whom to send your orders, if you don't go yourselves.
- The Fort Bridger Varieties have "Jack Sheppard" in rehearsal and calculate to perfect it during the latter part of the week.
- Mr. Brewer represents that the snow is rapidly disappearing between here and the mines, and that, if we have no more snow storms, it will be entirely gone in a few days. He says the snow has entirely disappeared from the hills and benches about Sweetwater, and that the stock is doing finely.
- The first regular train for the sweetwater country, or South Pass City, loaded and left today. The outfit consisted of seven mule teams, loaded by and for Glean and Talpey, and the goods consist of general merchandise, suitable for a mining community. This train proposes going by the new route, and have every confidence in making the trip in less than 200 miles. This is only a beginning of what our merchants and freighters may expect, in the way of outfitting in this city this spring.---Cheyenne Leader, March 20

A P o i n t i n T i m e C o n t i n u e d f r o m p . 2

If the list of laundresses at Fort Bridger is truly a reference to Martha Canary being employed at Fort Bridger, then she would have been orphaned with a younger brother and sister, and only eleven years old, almost twelve. Due to unfortunate circumstances some people had to grow-up fast. By being employed as a laundress, Martha Canary might have been eligible to live with other women in the Laundresses Quarters. If so, then what happened to her sister and brother? In a special census of 1869 Martha is listed as residing in Piedmont, so her stint as a Fort Bridger laundress probably lasted only a year at the most. Hopefully more records will surface.

So, It is indeed possible that Fort Bridger saw the emergence of a personality which ultimately became an American legend – “Calamity Jane”.

Fort Bridger State Historic Site, Microfilm roll H-120b

Etulain, Richard W., The Life and Legends of Calamity Jane, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Publishing Division of the University, 2014.

C a l e n d a r

April

April 3– Easter Egg Hunt

10am– Free

Take your pictures with a silly bunny and hunt for eggs. Sponsored by the Mountain View Lion’s Club.



May

May 25– Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony

8am– Free for the ceremony

We remember those who lost their lives serving our country through a Flag Raising Ceremony conducted at the flag pole by volunteers from the American Legion and VFW. The ceremony includes a 21-gun salute and taps.

May 1– Summer Season Begins

Open Daily 9-5- \$4 per resident, \$8 per non-resident, 17 and under free.

All of the historic buildings open and costumed staff explain the history of the fort.

Starting June 1, take a guided sneak-peak into the rooms of several buildings at the fort, every Monday-Thursday at 10am and 2pm, to get a true feel for the buildings and what life was like in the mid-to-late eighteen hundreds. Also, starting June 1, there will be 20 minutes interpretive programs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 10am, 2:30pm, and 3pm.

FORT BRIDGER STATE HISTORIC SITE

37000 Business Loop I-80
Po Box 35
Fort Bridger, WY 82933

Office: 307-782-3842
Cell: 307-870-8811

Website: wyoparks.state.wy.us



@fortbridgershs



**Improving Communities
and
Enriching Lives**



Fort Bridger's mission is to protect, preserve, and promote Fort Bridger State Historic Site while providing educational and interpretive opportunities for the citizens of Wyoming and visitors from around the nation and the world.



Become a Member

Become a Fort Bridger Historical Association or
Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association member today!



Fort Bridger Historical Association Mission:

The Fort Bridger Historical Association is a non-profit organization whose function is to promote, support, and preserve the Fort Bridger State Historic Site.

Yearly membership is \$50 and includes a membership in the Wyoming State Historical Society.

For more information or to join call 307-782-3842 or e-mail FBHA1843@gmail.com

Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association Mission:

The Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association is a non-profit organization to promote, educate, and re-live the history, culture and life ways of the Fur Trade Era of the American West 1790-1840.

Yearly membership is \$20.

For more information or to join, visit fortbridgerrendezvous.net, call 801-635-4038, or e-mail FBRAINCA@hotmail.com